

CHAPTER XIII

CATHOLIC ALTAR SOCIETY DOES EFFECTIVE WORK FOR ST. IGNATIUS CHAPEL

THE "St. Ignatius Chapel Altar Society" is another of the post's church organizations which has rendered most efficient aid in securing many improvements to its House of Worship. The grounds have been beautified, the building vastly improved without and within, and the altar provided with candelabras and many other articles necessary for a complete expression of Roman Catholic worship.

Among the ladies prominent in the past few years in the work of the Altar Society may be mentioned Mrs. Geo. LeR. Irwin, Mrs. D. L. Howell, Mrs. Walter H. Gordon, Mrs. James Ronayne, Mrs. James H. Frier, Mrs. J. R. Stone, Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Mrs. J. W. McAndrew, Mrs. Hugh Drum, Mrs. M. J. Lenihan and Mrs. Fred W. Fuger.

During these years the post commandants, General J. Franklin Bell, Colonels Chas. B. Hall and Thomas T. Davis, 18th Infantry, and Colonel H.R.H. Loughborough, 13th Infantry; also Major Michael J. Lenihan, 7th Infantry, have proved themselves very friendly to the Catholic chapel and to all of its work. The War Department, too, has shown its encouragement by granting the required allowance of fuel and light. All this helped to lighten the burden of those charged with the executive features belonging to the chapel.

In the spring of 1906 the building was piped for water conveniences, under the administration of

Rev. William Ospital. Mrs. LeR. Irwin and Major James E. Normoyle were instrumental in this improvement.

In 1907 a new roof was put on the building for which the congregation was under obligation to Mrs. W. H. Gordon, Mrs. D. L. Howell and Colonel Geo. S. Young, and the ladies of the Altar Society.

In 1908 electric lights were installed in all parts of the building, at a considerable cost to the congregation.

In 1910 a heating plant was installed to heat both the church and the rectory.

Early in 1911 the chapel interior was frescoed at a cost of several hundred dollars. The work was done by a young Danish artist, Mr. Theodore Brash of Kansas City.

In the summer of 1911 the exterior of the chapel was given a good coat of paint and the residence portion of the chapel remodeled and refurnished.

In all of these improvements the Altar Society has done its full share. At this time the congregation has increased to such an extent that Bishop Ward is anxious to relieve Rev. Father Dougherty from the Kickapoo mission in order that he may more fully devote his time to the work at Fort Leavenworth.

While organization is, in a great measure, responsible for the effective assistance rendered the post's two churches by the altar societies, it is not to be inferred that during the period preceding their existence, no help came from the army of Christian women who resided at the post in the many years of its life.

Indeed, their assistance, while lacking that unity of effort so effective in organization, was neverthe-

less of greatest value and did much to sustain and encourage the ministers of both chapels.

The author recalls on the Protestant side a number of names which were a tower of strength in all church work and its allied branches. Among these were Mrs. General Pope, Mrs. Clara L. Nichols, for years the postmistress of the station; Mrs. J. P. Wright, the wife of Surgeon Wright, for many years on duty at the U. S. Military Prison; Mrs. Babcock, the wife of the late General J. B. Babcock, U.S.A.; Mrs. Hawkins, the widow of the late General H. S. Hawkins, U.S.A.; Mrs. Perin, the wife of Surgeon Perin, medical director on General Pope's staff; Mrs. Dunn, wife of Major Wm. McK. Dunn, 2d Artillery, and many others.

Back in the seventies was the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel I. R. Dodge, 23d Infantry. She was a devoted member of the Roman Catholic church. Possessed of great wealth, her purse was ever ready to advance the interests of the local chapel. The late Mrs. Sherman, wife of General Sherman, a frequent visitor at the post, interested herself in the growth of the little church and encouraged many others to do likewise. Mrs. Dallas, wife of a major in the 23d Infantry, Mrs. Dodge, wife of Lieutenant F. L. Dodge, 23d Infantry, did much to aid the church work.

In addition to these were the wives and daughters of the hundreds of civilian employes and of the enlisted men serving at the post. These certainly did their full share in assisting the struggling congregation and it is largely due to their work that the church is in so flourishing a condition to-day.

Division Nine

Vital Statistics of the Post Since 1859

CHAPTER XIV

RECORD OF BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND BURIALS SINCE 1859 QUITE COMPLETE

UP to 1875 nothing had been done by army authorities requiring the keeping of an official record at military stations of the baptisms, marriages, deaths and funereal ceremonies, at which army chaplains may have officiated. The absence of such official record was brought to the attention of General Pope, in command of the department of the Missouri. Recognizing its importance to the parties concerned, or their descendants, he directed (General Orders Number 1, January 11, 1875) that all chaplains in his command "prepare a book and enter therein an accurate record of all marriages, baptismal and funeral services which they have performed, both for civilians and persons in the military service, at the posts at which they are now stationed, or in the vicinity thereof, with such particulars relative to each as may be of importance. This book must be considered as a part of the records of the post, and will be subject to inspection by inspecting officers."

General Pope's order had no effect beyond the limits of his command, but it drew the attention of the War Department authorities who believed that a similar regulation should affect all military stations within the United States. Accordingly General Pope's order was adopted and republished to the army, as an original order from the War Department, without the dotting of an i or the crossing of a t. This order appeared on January 25, 1875, and is Number 3 of that year.

With a view to securing these statistics to embrace the earliest possible time within the existence of the post, Chaplain Woart placed himself in communication with such of his predecessors as he was able to locate. He found Chaplain Stone had kept a record of his official acts. Every official ceremony or church service from the time he came to the post in 1859, until his departure in May, 1868, was made of record and this journal he kindly placed at the disposal of the post authorities.

At this point it is well to reproduce the official statement of Chaplain Woart covering his correspondence with Chaplain Stone, and which was made a part of the record containing the valuable statistics, accompanied by a certificate from the adjutant of the post, Lieutenant George W. Baird, Fifth Infantry, that the copy made agrees with the record furnished by Chaplain Stone.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

July 24, 1875.

The foregoing notices of official acts were sent to me, at my request, for use in this record book, by the Rev. Hiram Stone, Post Chaplain in the U. S. Army. These acts were performed by Mr. Stone during the time that he was stationed at this post, from October 6, 1859, to May 29, 1868.

In a letter accompanying the foregoing notices Mr. Stone writes:

"During the war especially, it was almost impossible and quite impracticable to obtain the names and other particulars of deceased persons, owing to the multitude of troops that were constantly coming to and going from the post. At this date it is impossible to conceive the state of things then existing. People would come to me to baptize and bury when a command was just on the move; and in the

case of burials, it oftentimes occurred that I was called to go directly to the grave where it is almost impossible to learn the age and sometimes the name of of the deceased. This will account for the lack of names and dates which frequently occur."

The Reverend William Vaux, who was stationed at this post for a short time after Mr. Stone left, was an accurate man, but as his minutes of duties performed were lost, no record of them can be made here.

Assisted by the post adjutant at this post, I have very carefully examined the copy of official acts by Mr. Stone, now entered in this book, with the copy of them made by Mr. Stone from his private official record book, and sent to me as I have above stated; and the adjutant hereby unites with me in certifying to the entire agreement with the copy here referred to made by Mr. Stone of the copy inserted in this book.

JOHN WOART,

Post Chaplain, U. S. Army.

G. W. BAIRD,

1st Lieut. & Adj't., 5th Inf.,

Post Adjutant.

The value of these records was recently proved through the request of a soldier's widow that she be furnished with a certificate of her marriage said to have occurred at the post in 1861 and at which Rev. Hiram Stone officiated. She gave the date of the ceremony and it was found so recorded.

With Chaplain Stone's data a good start was made in the opening of this record. The requirement to maintain such a record has been faithfully adhered to and is now the most valuable asset among the archives of the post.

The first marriage recorded is that of Lieutenant O. D. Green to Miss Kate Rich.* This event occurred at the post October 6, 1859. The bride was the daughter of the then Post Trader, Hiram Rich. Lieutenant Green became later an officer in the adjutant general's department and was familiarly known as General Oliver D. Green.

Of the laying of the cornerstone and dedication of the post's present chapel Chaplain Woart made the following entry:

"At 6 o'clock, P.M., on the fifth day of May, Sunday, the second after Easter, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, the chaplain at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, laid the cornerstone of a new post chapel on Arsenal avenue,† at this post, in the presence of the commander of the department of the Missouri, John Pope, Brigadier General in the U. S. Army, and Brevet Major General, and his family; and the officers of the General's staff, and their families; and most of the officers of the Twenty-Third Infantry and their families; and many enlisted men, and others residing at the post, and the officers and others connected with the United States Military Prison, with their chaplain Rev. A. D. Mitchell; and a few distinguished officers from abroad. There were likewise present, Rt. Rev. F. H. Vail, D.D., L.L.D., of Topeka, Kansas; the Rev. T. W. Barry, of the church of St. Paul, Leavenworth, Kansas, and a large number of citizens from that city."

The chaplain's report to the Adjutant General of the U. S. Army, for November, A.D., eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, concluded as follows:

* Both deceased.

† Now Scott Avenue.

"It is with great pleasure that I mention that on Thursday, the twenty-eighth day of the present month I performed religious services at the opening of the new post chapel recently completed at the military post. It is well built, very handsome and admirably adapted to the purposes for which it was erected. God's Holy Name be praised."

An account of the first baptism and marriage in the new post chapel deserves to be made of record here and is given below:

"At the Post Chapel, on Arsenal Avenue, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on Wednesday, January twenty-second, A.D., eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, I baptized Ida, born September sixteenth, A.D., eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, daughter of George H. C. Ashman, chief musician of the band of the Twenty-third Infantry, and his wife Emma L. W. Ashman. The parents of the child answered the questions in the service."

"At the post chapel, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on Tuesday in Whitsun week, June third, A.D., eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, in the presence of a large number of persons, I united in holy matrimony, according to the forms and ceremonies of the Protestant Episcopal Church in these United States, and agreeable to the laws of the State of Kansas, Sidney Hayden, jr., Attorney and Counselor-at-law at Holton, Jackson County, in the State of Kansas, son of Sidney Hayden, sr., of Sayre, Bradford County, in the State of Pennsylvania, and Mary Walker, daughter of the late Joseph Walker*, M.D., of Platte County, in the State of Missouri, formerly a surgeon in the U. S. Army, and his wife, Mrs. F. J. Walker.

* Assistant Surgeon August 21, 1838; resigned April 2, 1849. Born in Bermuda, Illinois.

The woman was given to be married to the man by a first cousin of Mrs. F. J. Walker, above named, Colonel John H. Winston, of Platte County, above named."

These notices of funerals are taken from the record:

"July 29, 1877—At the house of the family of the deceased, and at the military cemetery, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on Sunday evening, July twenty-ninth, A.D., eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, I performed funeral services at the interment of Robert Thomas Jackson. He was born in Third St., James Square, Pall Mall, London, England, on the tenth day of March, A.D., eighteen hundred and ten. At the age of nineteen he came to the United States and at St. Louis, Missouri, in eighteen hundred and twenty-nine, was made chief musician in the band of the Sixth regiment of the United States Infantry. He served in that regiment twenty-seven years. When he was discharged he went to the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, to reside. In eighteen hundred and fifty-eight he enlisted in the First U. S. Cavalry, afterwards known as the Fourth, serving in that regiment three years and seven months. In eighteen hundred and sixty-three he was appointed Wagon and Forage Master at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the duties of which position he discharged faithfully till the time of his death. He was baptized and confirmed in early life, in the church of England. He was a highly respected member of the Masonic fraternity, having attained the thirty-first degree."

William Jackson, employed by the quartermaster department at the United States Military Prison, is the youngest son of the deceased veteran.

"August 3, 1877—On Friday evening, August

third, A.D., eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, at the post chapel, and at the military cemetery, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, I performed funeral services at the interment of the following-named officers of the Seventh U. S. Cavalry, who were killed in an engagement with hostile Indians of the Sioux tribe, at the Little Big Horn River, in the Territory of Montana, on the twenty-fifth day of June, A.D., eighteen hundred and seventy-six:

Captain George W. Yates,
 Captain Thomas W. Custer,
 First Lieutenant Algeron E. Smith,
 First Lieutenant Donald McIntosh,
 First Lieutenant James Calhoun.

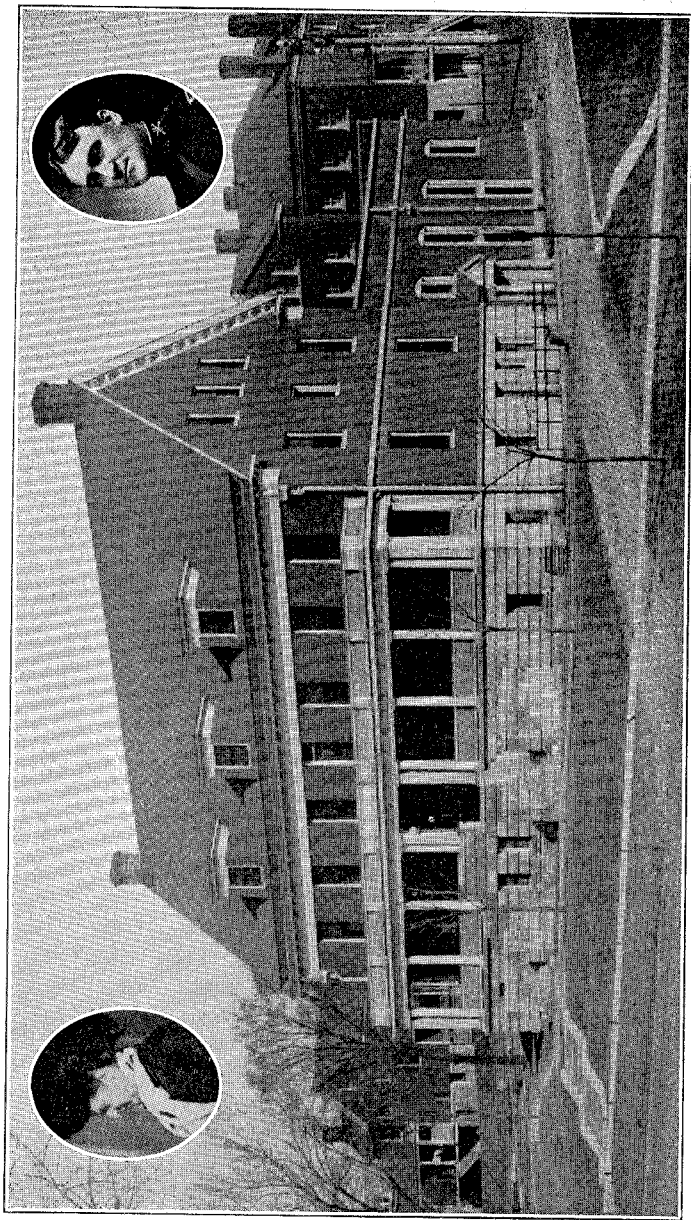
“A very large number of people were present at the ceremonies.”

“June 8, 1881—On Wednesday afternoon, June eighth, A.D., eighteen hundred and eighty-one, I attended the funeral at the post chapel and at the military cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, of Hartford T. Clarke, born at Providence, Rhode Island, July third, A.D., eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, son of the late Senator John Hopkins Clarke, a member of the Senate of the United States from the state of Rhode Island. The deceased, Hartford T. Clarke, was, at the time of his death, a hospital steward in the U. S. Army, stationed at the U. S. Military Prison at the fort above named.”

Mr. John H. Clarke, employed at Fort Leavenworth as assistant engineer in the mechanical department of the post quartermaster, is a son of the late H. T. Clarke and a great-great-grandson of the John Hopkins of Rhode Island whose signature is attached to the Declaration of Independence.

Division Ten

Army Young Men's Christian Association



Miss HELEN MILLER GOULD

HOME OF THE ARMY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

CHAPLAIN J. T. AXTON

CHAPTER XV

AN ARMY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION BUILDING ERECTED IN 1907

AN agitation in favor of the erection of a building at Fort Leavenworth suitable for the purposes of the Army Young Men's Christian Association was undertaken by Chaplain John S. Randolph, 6th U. S. Infantry, during his tour of duty at the post, 1902 to 1905. Before being able to make a success of his work, his regiment was ordered to the Philippines. His successor, Chaplain John T. Axton, 18th Infantry, upon assuming his duties at the post in the early part of February, 1905, realizing the necessity for a building of the kind referred to, set to work along his own lines, and by the latter part of March was assured by the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A., that Miss Helen Miller Gould agreed to erect a building and furnish the same at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00. Chaplain Axton's efforts had the official endorsement of General J. Franklin Bell, commandant of the service schools and of Colonel Charles B. Hall, 18th Infantry, commanding the post.

Upon the assurance that the money would be furnished, authority to erect the building on the reservation was obtained. October 23, 1907, the edifice, a most beautiful structure without, and handsomely furnished within, was dedicated with ceremonies due the donor and befitting the purpose for which erected, Miss Helen Gould attending the dedication. Addresses were delivered by Governor E. W. Hoch of Kansas, Brigadier-General Charles B. Hall, Rev. Chas. M.

Sheldon, author of "In His Steps," and William B. Millar, International Secretary of the Army and Navy Department of the Y. M. C. A. Additional ceremonies were conducted in the evening exclusively for the enlisted men. Miss Gould was the guest of honor, and received from the thousand and more men present a welcome she will always remember.

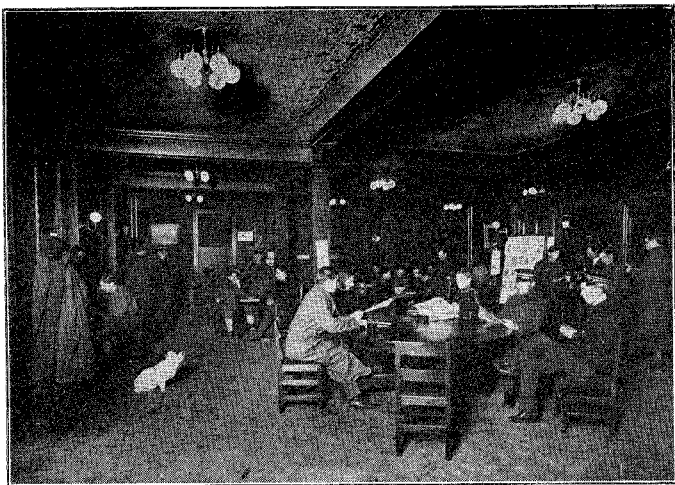
The plans for the building were drawn by Mr. T. C. Link, of St. Louis, approved by Miss Gould, the International Committee and the military authorities, and the contract awarded to Mr. James A. McGonigle, of Leavenworth.

Upon the south wall of the lobby a brass tablet was placed bearing the following inscription:

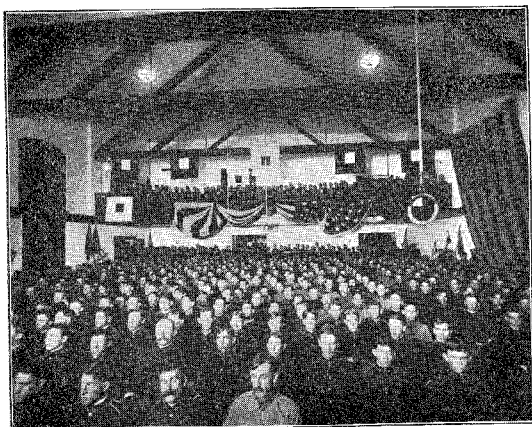
THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED FOR THE
ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE BY
HELEN MILLER GOULD
IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER FATHER
JAY GOULD
OCTOBER 23, 1907

Since the banners of the Young Men's Christian Association have always been dedicated to virtue and not to creed, and its methods of work have been along sane and practical lines, Miss Gould's gift has been a very great contribution to the moral and religious welfare and contentment of the enlisted men of the Fort Leavenworth garrison.

In the little over four years that the building has been open a great work has been carried on for the men of the post, in the varied lines of Association activities. Bible classes and religious services have



A LOBBY SCENE IN THE ARMY Y. M. C. A. BUILDING



GYMNASIUM, ARMY Y. M. C. A.

been held and a very large number of men have been touched by them. A strong educational work has also been done. Practical and helpful courses have been given, under competent instructors, at very low cost to the men, and many have availed themselves of this opportunity for profitably putting in some of their leisure hours. Athletics, too, have come in for their part. Baseball, football, basketball and bowling occupying the foreground. Socials and entertainments of various kinds have been given from time to time, all of which greatly appreciated by the men.

In fact almost any man's taste or fancy may be met in the magnificent building with its spacious and comfortable lobby, reading and correspondence room, well selected library, educational class and study rooms, finely equipped gymnasium, baths, bowling alleys, billiard and pool tables, and many other features to be found in the building,

From the annual report of the Secretary of the Fort Leavenworth branch of the association the following interesting figures are gleaned and give one a fair idea of the work that is being accomplished:

Men at post, 2,000: total membership, 300; on committees, 60; average daily attendance, 180.

Letters written, 17,772,

Visits to sick, 120,

Entertainments, 42; attendance, 3,912,

Games played—Bowling, 660; pool, 2,962; other games, 7,727,

Gospel meetings—Number, 81; total attendance, 3,355,

Bible classes—Number, 4; enrollment, 300; total attendance, 8,660,

Church parties—Number, 23; total attendance, 330,

Attendance classes, meetings and church parties for year, 12,345; professed conversions, 139; joined church, 26.

Attendance two gymnasium classes, 860,

Exercises outside classes, 1,168,

On athletic teams, 59,

Visitors at gymnasium games, 1,646,

Visitors to outside games, 400,

Number of educational classes, 18,

Number of different students, 180,

Lectures and practical talks, 8,

Total attendance at same, 225,

Volumes loaned and traveling libraries, 1,320,

Times used, 4,674,

Testaments distributed, 150.

To Chaplain Axton belongs the credit for the success achieved in this work. He zealously assisted in planning and then watching the work of construction, and remained at the post long enough to realize to the fullest extent a long cherished hope and a meeting of every expectation when the great work was undertaken.

The present secretary of the local branch is Mr. H. W. Chaffee, who has had a great deal of experience in this class of work in navy branches.

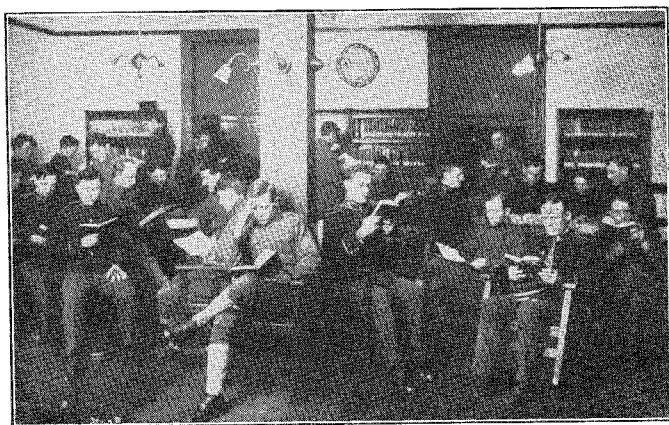
Following is the law under which the Secretary of War granted a license for the erection of the building:

An act for the authorization of the erection of buildings by the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association on military reservations of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That authority is hereby given to the Secretary of War, in his discretion, to grant per-



BIBLE CLASS OF THE ARMY Y. M. C. A.



LIBRARY BEFORE CALL TO EDUCATIONAL CLASSES
OF THE ARMY Y. M. C. A.

mission by revocable license to the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association of North America to erect and maintain, on the military reservations within the United States or its island possessions, such buildings, as their work for the promotion of the social, physical welfare of the garrison may require, under such regulations as the Secretary of War may impose.

Approved May 3, 1902.

Division Eleven

The Post's School Facilities
